

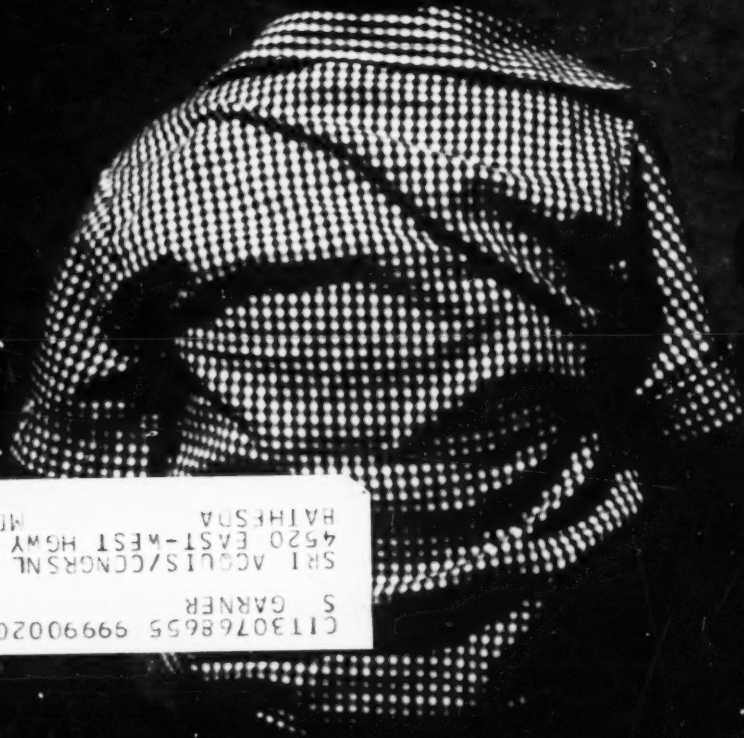
A Publication of Communication Channels, Inc.

C2425-2A

APRIL 1984

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration • engineering • operations



CIT30768655 9999002040 0000 0
S GARNER
SRI ACQUIS/CCNGRSNL INFC
4520 EAST-WEST HWY STE R 306
BAIHESDA MD 20814

Parks and Recreation
Swings Into the '80s

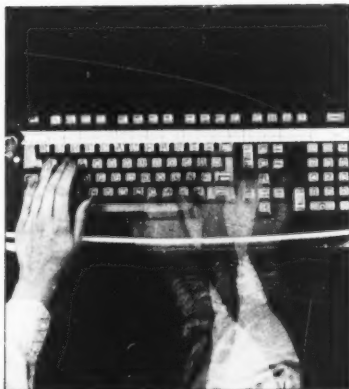
**Automation Shreds
The Paper Avalanche**

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration • engineering • operations

April 1984

Vol. 99, No. 4



44



30



56

FEATURES

- 30 Going the Distance With Fitness**
Americans are accelerating their pace toward better health.
- 36 City Fit Program Delivers "New Life"**
Fitness is brought to citizens of New Rochelle, N.Y., via their city fit van.
- 40 City Prunes Parks Staff Through Use of Volunteers**
Citizen volunteers in Lincoln, Neb., help provide parks maintenance and reduce costs.
- 42 Swat No More, Gnats Are Gone**
A citizen group in Pennsylvania found a solution to a nasty problem.
- 44 Shredding the Paper Avalanche**
The rapid growth of office automation technology helps cities solve problems.
- 48 Computer Applications Solve City Problems**
Technology increases efficiency and productivity in Burbank and Anaheim, Calif., and Indianapolis, Ind.
- 52 Computers Shine in North Star**
Alaska borough uses property appraisal and tax collection system.
- 56 Human Resources Test the Skills of Today's Managers**
Public sector groups are beginning to emulate the private sector in managing human resources.
- 61 Better Managers Learn to Listen**
Improved listening can result in increased productivity and reduced costs.
- 62 Natural Gas: An Alternative to . . .**
Fleet operators access ways to achieve better performance while maintaining low prices.

DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 Editor's View | 20 Computer Talk |
| 8 Calendar | 22 Industry News |
| 10 Letters To The Editor | 66 Literature |
| 12 Washington Dateline | 68 New Products |
| 14 Newsmakers | 70 Manufacturers |
| 16 Financial Management | 76 Municipal Cost Indexes |

About the Cover

Physical fitness is not only for the young. All ages are finding a kind of "fountain of youth," with increased fitness to achieve better overall health. (Photograph by Jeff Licata.)

American City & County is published monthly by Communication Channels, Inc., Tim Gold Blyth, Chairman of the Board; B. J. Kotsher, President; Scott Smith, Secretary; John Moebius, Treasurer. Editorial and advertising offices at 6255 Barfield Road, Atlanta, GA 30328. Telephone 404-256-9800. American City & County is a registered trademark of Communication Channels, Inc. © 1984 by Communication Channels, Inc. Application to mail at Second Class Postage paid at Atlanta, GA and at additional mailing offices. Subscription rates: U.S.A., 1 year \$37; 2 years, \$63; Canada and Mexico, 1 year, \$40; Foreign, 1 year, \$47; overseas air mail, \$78. Single copies, \$3.50. The opinions expressed by authors and contributors to American City & County are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher. Articles appearing in American City & County may not be reproduced in whole or in part without permission of the publisher. Microfilm copies of American City & County are available from Xerox University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Postmaster: Please send form 3579 to Circulation Department, American City & County, 6255 Barfield Road, Atlanta, GA 30328. ISSN 0149-337X

MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** increased only 0.1 percent for the month to 326.7 as the other cost indexes remained virtually unchanged. The **Consumer Price Index** and the **Producer Price Index** both rose 0.1 percent, while the **ACC Construction Cost Index** remained stable at 359.7.

The minor cost index increases come at a time when the Reagan administration is urging the Federal Reserve Board to increase the money supply to keep economic growth on

track, while curbing worries about inflation. Meanwhile, economists are still predicting that the first half of 1984 will bring increased corporate profits and lower interest rates, which should strengthen the nation's economy. Lower interest rates should help keep municipal budgets in the black.

Compiled by Jeff Atkinson

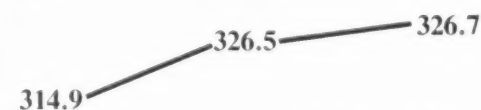
THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From:	
		Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	142.8	0.2	1.6
Apparel	198.4	-0.2	2.8
Asphalt Roofing	380.6	-0.9	-4.1
Books	123.2	0.4	5.1
Chemicals, Industrial	345.1	-0.3	0.8
Coal	542.4	0.5	0.7
Concrete Products	303.7	0	1.7
Construction Machinery	353.7	0	1.6
Diesel Fuel	701.1	-0.8	-14.9
Electric Components	188.2	0.6	5.4
Electric Lamps	331.4	1.3	11.4
Electric Power	417.6	-0.3	1.9
Engines, I.C.	342.7	0	1.8
Fans and Blowers	335.8	0	-0.3
Fertilizers, Mixed	258.9	0.3	-1.8
Floor Coverings	187.8	-0.1	3.5
Flow Instruments	100.6	0	N/A
Footwear	251.3	0	1.5
Foundry Products	353.1	0.1	2.0
Fuel Oil No. 2	729.4	-1.3	-15.8
Furniture, Commercial	290.5	0.1	4.3
Gasoline	587.6	-2.0	-10.0
Generator Sets	336.0	0.1	5.9
Glass	230.0	0	2.1
Glass Containers	351.0	0	-1.8
Gypsum Products	321.9	2.4	26.6
Hardware	291.9	0.1	2.1
Heating Equipment	245.6	0.2	2.6
HVAC Controls	120.5	-1.1	-1.6
LP Gas	694.7	-1.9	-6.1
Lubricants	366.3	0.3	3.7
Lumber	351.5	1.6	N/A
Metal Fabrications	304.9	0	0.1
Millwork	308.5	0.1	7.7
Motor Vehicle Parts	351.3	0.1	-0.5
Mowers	254.0	0.1	3.5
Natural Gas	1402.7	0.7	-4.3
Office Machines	154.9	0.1	1.2
Paint	264.9	0.2	0.1
Paper	288.9	0.3	3.5
Passenger Cars	222.0	0	1.3
Plumbing Fixtures	293.6	0	5.2
Plywood	247.1	1.0	6.9
Portland Cement	340.5	-0.2	4.4
Pumps	346.3	0.3	-0.6
Residual Fuel	1200.7	-1.3	3.6
Sand and Gravel	288.7	0.4	2.7
Sanitary Papers	359.7	0	-0.6
Soaps, Detergents	267.2	0.2	4.0
Sporting Goods	206.8	-0.4	0.2
Steel Mill Products	359.5	0.1	4.3
Struc. Clay Prod.	283.5	0	7.1
Switchgear	269.3	0	1.5
Tires and Tubes	243.0	0.1	-5.1
Transformers	223.9	0.4	1.6
Trucks	317.7	0	0.1
Valves	100.1	0	0.1
Wire and Cable	201.5	-0.7	2.1
Wiring Devices	341.9	0.9	3.9

At-A-Glance Changes

ACC MUNICIPAL COST INDEX

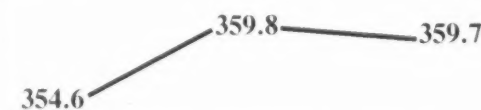
Last Year Last Month This Month



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 3.7

ACC CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX

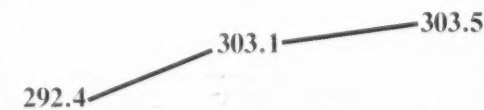
Last Year Last Month This Month



Percent Change From Last: Month 0 Year 1.4

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

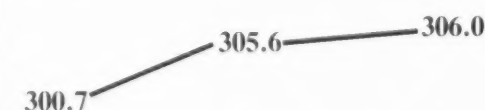
Last Year Last Month This Month



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 3.8

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)

Last Year Last Month This Month



Percent Change From Last: Month 0.1 Year 1.8

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From:	
		Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	492.7B	2.9	11.3
Federal Grants	87.2B	0.6	5.1
Durable Purchases	14.5B	2.1	8.2
Consumables	32.5B	3.5	3.5
Services	331.4B	1.9	7.7
Structures	41.8B	8.6	0.9
Salaries, Wages	242.6B	1.9	7.8
Surplus	55.5B	7.4	77.3
Employment	13.019M	0.4	-0.1